Claims

1. A method for preparing a dispersion of one fluid in another fluid by extruding one fluid, which is the dispersed phase, through a membrane orifice into another fluid which is the continuous phase, characterised in that the extrusion is interrupted prior to, during or after the dispersed fluid has emerged from the orifice.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the interruption of flow is caused by a disturbance in the flow of the continuous fluid or energy input into the dispersed fluid.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the interruption of extrusion is caused by a disturbance in flow of the continuous fluid.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the flow in the continuous fluid is disturbed by a vibrating wire or plate which is placed at a distance of less than 1 mm from the membrane orifice through which the dispersed phase is extruded.

5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the wire or plate vibrates at a frequency of 0.1 to 2 kHz, preferably from 1 to 1.8 kHz.

6. A method according to any of claims 1-5 wherein the membrane orifice has a diameter of from 0.1 to 120 μm, preferably from 0.2 to 8 μm.

7. A method according to any of claims 1-6 wherein the disturbance in the flow or energy transfer is generated with microengineered electromechanical devices.

8. A method according to any of claims 1-7 wherein the membrane is operated under cross flow of the continuous phase.

9. Use of a method according to any of claims 1-8 for the preparation of an oil and water containing emulsion.